

Translated by  
Defense Language Branch

Litchfield, Connecticut,  
January 10, 1947.

I, Eugene H. Dooman, Counselor of the American Embassy at Tokyo from May 22, 1937, to December 8, 1941, certify that on May 23, 1939, while Charge d'Affaires ad interim of the Embassy, I met Baron Hiranuma, at that time the Prime Minister of Japan, and that he then requested me to convey to the President of the United States a proposal that a conference of the Great Powers be called by President Roosevelt to endeavor to avert the war which was then threatening in Europe.

Baron Hiranuma said that if war should break out in Europe the United States and Japan would inevitably be drawn into it, and that a world war would accomplish nothing but the destruction of civilization. He added that if the proposed conference could be held, Japan would agree to the placing before it of the Sino-Japanese conflict, even though it had been the policy of the Japanese Government to refuse to allow third countries to intervene between Japan and China. An extended account of our conversation will be found in my despatch No. 3936, dated June 7, 1941 from Tokyo to the Secretary of State.

I had long been aware that Baron Hiranuma maintained exceptionally close personal relations with the Emperor

and certain other influential members of the Imperial Family. As the Japanese Army had repeatedly declared that no interposition of third powers between Japan and China would be tolerated, it was clear that the Prime Minister could not have made the proposal described unless he were prepared to invoke the intervention of the Emperor in overcoming the opposition of the Army, which would be certain, to laying the Sino-Japanese conflict before the Western Powers. His proposal for an international conference which would seek, among other things, a settlement of Sino-Japanese issues, postulated a willingness to resort to this extreme and unprecedented measure, with results within Japan no one could foresee. I was, therefore, profoundly convinced at that time that Baron Hiranuma was earnestly and courageously seeking to restore peace in the Far East on a durable basis and to avert war with any of the Western Powers.

That conviction was only strengthened by subsequent knowledge that he had supported the sending in January 1941 of Mr. S. Hashimoto to the United States to explore with officials in the Department of State and with leading Americans the possibility of negotiations between the United States and Japan looking toward the resolving of the critical situation in the Pacific.

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I confidently believe that no evidence will be adduced before the International Tribunal to controvert my considered judgment that Baron Hiranuma did not promote war and that he was not involved in any conspiracy to promote war.

/S/ Eugene H. Dooman

一九四七年一月十日

コネクチカット リツチファイルドニ於テ

一九三七年五月二十二日より一九四一年十二月八日迄  
東京米國大使館參事官タリシ自分一エーション。エツチ。ドウマンハ次ノ  
コトヲ證明スル即チ一九三九年五月二十三日自分ガ臨時代理大使デアツ  
タ時ニ當時ノ日本總理大臣デアツタ平沼男爵ニ面會シタ其ノ際男爵ハ自  
分ニ對シ歐洲ニ於テ當時切迫シテ居タ戦争ヲ回避スルコトニ努ムル爲メ  
大統領ニヨリ列施會議召集セラルベシトイフ提案ヲ米國大統領ニ傳達方  
ヲ要請シタ。

平沼男爵ハ若シ歐洲デ戦争ガ起レバ米國モ日本モ引キ込マルルコトハ  
避ケ難イダロウ又世界戦争ハ文明ノ破壞ヲ完成スルノミデアロウト言ヒ  
更ニ附言シテ若シ提案セラルル會議ヲ開クコトガ出來レバ日本政府ハ從  
來日支關係ニ第三國ガ干涉スルコトヲ拒絶スル政策デアツタガ夫レニ拘  
ラズ日本ハ其會議ニ日支紛争問題ヲ議題ニスルコトニ同意スルダロウト  
言ツタ。吾等ノ會話ノ詳細ナル記事ハ一九四一年六月七日附第三九三六  
號東京ヨリ國務長官ニ對スル自分ノ書信中ニ出テ居ル。

自分ハ平沼男爵ガ天皇及皇室ノ他ノ有力ナ皇族ト特別ニ密接ナ個人的  
關係ヲ持テ居ルコトヲ古クカラ知ツテ居タ。日本ノ陸軍ハ屢々日支間ニ  
第三國ノ介入スルコトヲ許サスト言明シテ居ルカラ陸軍ハ日支紛争ヲ西



洋列施ノ會議ニカケルコトニハ必ズ反對スベク總理大臣ハ軍ノ反對ヲ排  
除スル爲ニ天皇ノ御裁定ヲ奉請スル用意ガナイ限リ上述ノ提案ヲスル管  
ハナイトイフコトハ明白デアツタ。

他ノ問題ト共ニ日文問題ノ解決ヲ求ムル國際會議ヲ男爵ガ提案スルトイ  
フコトハ日本國內デハ何人モ豫見出來ナイ結果ヲ生ズベキ極端ナ前例ナ  
キ方法ニ依ルコトニ贊成デアルトイフコトヲ前提トスルワケデアルカラ  
私ハ平沼男爵ハ其ノ當時極東ノ平和ヲ永續性アル根柢ノ上ニ求メ又西洋  
列強ノ何トモ戰爭ヲ避ケヤウト熱心ニ勇敢ニ努メテ居ルコトヲ深ク信ジ  
タノデアアル。

其ノ確信ハ其ノ後平沼男爵ガエス・橋本氏ヲ一九四一年一月米國ニ派  
遣スルコトヲ支持シタトイフコトヲ知り更ニ強固ニセラレタ。橋本氏ハ  
米國國務省官吏及米國ノ指導階級ノ人ニ就キ大平洋ニ於ケル危機解決ヲ  
目指ス日米間ノ會談ノ可能性ヲ探求スル爲ニ派遣サレタノデアアル。  
私ハ平沼男爵ハ戰爭ヲ推進シタコトナク戰爭推進ノ共同謀議等ニハ加  
ツテ居ラヌトイフ私ノ熟慮セシ判斷ヲ覆ス様ニ證據ハ國際法廷ニ提出セ  
ラル、コトハナイト私カニ信ズルモノデアアル。

ユージン、エイチ、ドウマン